



March 8, 2021

Dear School Leader,

There's a lot to reflect on as we approach the one-year anniversary of the closure of school campuses. I'm proud to say at each step along the way the team at Los Angeles Unified has risen to the challenge and no one has played a more important role than you and your colleagues who are leading schools. Thank you for your tireless commitment and continuing efforts to do all you can to help the students and families we serve.

I'm writing to share some good news on the budget front. Our repeated calls for a Marshall Plan to provide the funding schools will need to help students on the path to recovery are being answered. In December, Congress passed legislation which will provide an additional \$1.2 billion to schools in Los Angeles Unified and the California legislation last week signed into law an additional \$640 million. The recent actions in Washington may provide an estimated \$2.2 billion in the years to come.

The \$1.8 billion from the federal and state actions already signed into law will be provided as a budget supplement to schools for the 2021-22 school year as part of our Path to Recovery COVID-19 Response plan. These funds will be used for many things, from COVID-19 testing and additional custodial support to more teachers and counselors. In concept, we expect schools to go through a normal budget process with the funds provided in February and they can expect to receive the additional dollars and services from the Recovery funds as a supplement. It will require extraordinary work over the next several weeks to finalize the details and put plans in place to operationalize these budget actions at schools.

The details on the most recent actions in Washington have yet to be provided though we expect much of this funding to be used over a longer period of time since many of the

services at schools -- from additional custodial support to help for students with learning differences and disabilities -- will be needed for much longer than one school year.

A few specific steps are being taken at this time to incorporate these plans and they include:

1. The time for budget development at schools will be extended to April 19 to allow us to connect the regular budget process with these supplemental resources.
2. Highest-needs schools will receive an immediate increase of \$50 million allocated based on the SENI formula to be used in their regular or baseline budget.
3. An additional \$50 million of Title I funds will also be advanced now for use in the baseline budget.
4. Technology and safety needs related to COVID-19 will be funded out of the Path to Recovery monies referred to in No. 5 below. For example, costs for replacement of computers, internet access for students and upgrading of ventilation systems will not be borne by school budgets.
5. The \$1.8 billion Path to Recovery plan will be reviewed with the Board and discussed publicly over the coming weeks while final amounts are determined during this process. The dollars and services will all go to schools but in amounts and for services tied to specific programs. For example, a school may receive 6 hours of extra custodial time along with the individuals who will do the work. The operational requirements for the Path to Recovery programs will be best addressed in this approach as it's not possible for each school to operationalize these in the scale necessary and in the time we have to put the programs in place before the 2021-22 school year begins.

This is great news for schools and the students they serve. It will also add some complexity to an already unusual budget cycle and I want to thank you in advance for your patience and understanding as we work through the details.

Deputy Superintendent Megan Reilly, CFO David Hart and the budget staff have set up a special team led by Veronica Arreguin, Chief Strategy Officer, and Tony Atienza, Director of Budget Services & Financial Planning to help explain all of the details to school leaders. They will be providing regular updates and coordinate with Local District Leadership and Community of Schools Administrators to support you as the plans are finalized. Please expect more detailed information on this and the Path to Recovery by the end of this week.

Thank you for your continued patience and support.

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